

Appl. No. 10/713,526

Amdt. dated May 25, 2006

Response to Office Action Mailed March 7, 2006

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed March 7, 2006, wherein claims 1, 4-6 and 8-13 remain pending. With this response, Claim 13 has been cancelled without traverse. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following comments.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1, 4-6 and 8-12 are allowed.

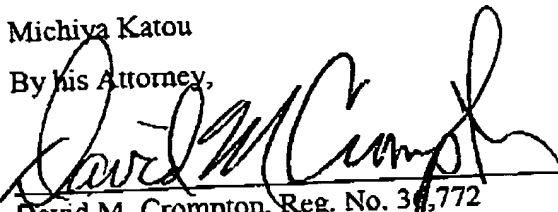
Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McClelland et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,710,708) in view of Mangafas et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,987,980). Claim 13 has been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Michiya Katou

By his Attorney,



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